

National Bee-Keepers' Convention, San Antonio, Nov. 8-10

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APIARY OF D. J. BLOCHER, OF PEARL CITY, ILL.
(See page 862)



APIARY OF E. G. CARR, OF NEW EGYPT, N. J.



American Bee Journal



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1st.—To promote the interests of its members.
2d.—To protect and defend its members in their lawful rights.
3d.—To enforce laws against the adulteration of honey.

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3-band from Imported Dark Leather, Moore's Long-Tongue, or my own. Goldens from Laws, Doolittle's or my own. Caucasians and Carniolans from direct Imported.

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Untested	\$.75	\$ 4.00	\$ 7.50	\$.60	\$ 3.25	\$ 6.00	\$.85	\$ 4.50	\$ 8.00	\$.95	\$ 5.00	8.50
Select Untested	1.00	5.00	9.00	.75	4.25	8.00	1.10	5.50	9.50	1.20	6.00	10.00
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American Bee Journal

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WALTER S. POUDER

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Best Wisconsin Sections,
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and other Root's Goods.

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Let us quote you prices on Sections, Hives,
Foundation, etc., as we can save you time and
freight. Beeswax Wanted for Cash.

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6 percent Discount for October orders.

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Prof. A. J. Cook, Claremont, Cal.,

FOR HIS

"Bee-Keeper's Guide."

Liberal Discounts to the Trade.

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The letter reproduced below from a well-known poultry-man is representative of hundreds of unsolicited letters received annually, commanding the Root Goods. Whether you are a dealer in Supplies or a bee-keeper, you will be interested in what Mr. Rigg says, especially if you have never used our Supplies.

In this letter we call your particular attention to 3 points:

1st.—Mr. Rigg could get along without GLEANINGS, but could not afford to do so. Neither can any one keeping bees, even if only a single colony.

2d.—In purchasing bees, as with other stock, it pays to get select stock. See what results Mr. Rigg obtained from our red-clover strain of bees.

3d.—We respectfully urge you to notice that Mr. Rigg used our Danzenbaker comb-honey hive. If you want to produce fancy honey, this is the hive to use.

WHITE WYANDOTTES <small>Lies Best Since 1897 Unapproached in Size, Style and Finish</small>	HOUDANS <small>Lies Best Since 1874 Acknowledegd Standard of Houdan Excellence in America</small>
LE BOCA GE FARM <small>THOS. F. RIGG</small>	
<small>Iowa Falls, Iowa, Aug. 29, 1906</small>	
<p>The A. I. Root Co., Medina, Ohio</p> <p>Gentlemen:</p> <p>Find enclosed draft for \$1.50 for which please give me credit on subscription account to Gleanings.</p> <p>I could get along without Gleanings, but cannot afford to do so. Let me tell you of the result secured from the three-frame nucleus purchased of you. This was received here May 23rd. This was given good care and has made me 64 pounds of surplus honey and will yet have to its credit nearly 32 pounds more. Is not that good for a "greenhorn"? But it was all on account of the worth of that queen. An experienced bee man tells me that this was an exceptionally good queen. When he saw the immense swarm busy at work, and was told that only a short time before it was only a small nucleus, he remarked, "Got them of Root, did you not?"</p> <p>I give full credit to Root and the queen. I cared for them in a Danz hive according to Root's advice, and got the usual Root results.</p> <p>Yours respectfully,</p> <p><i>Thos. F. Rigg -</i></p>	

Our early order discount for October is 6 percent. If you can't make up your specifications to-day send your remittance to cover approximately your needs, and claim the discount, and let your order follow by later mail. If you want goods to the amount of \$50 remit us only \$47.00. Other amounts in proportion. Claim the benefit of the discount when your remittance is sent. Send orders and remittances either to our home office, branch offices, or jobbing agents. Notice list of names of principal dealers in the Sept. 6th issue of this paper.

Dealers at remote points can not always make the same prices and discounts that we do at Medina, but are able to do so in many cases. Correspond with such dealers direct on these matters.

THE A. I. ROOT CO., Medina, Ohio



(Entered at the Post-Office at Chicago as Second-Class Mail-Matter.)
Published Weekly at \$1.00 a Year, by George W. York & Co., 334 Dearborn Street.

GEORGE W. YORK, Editor

CHICAGO, ILL., OCTOBER 11, 1906

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Dark Brood-Chamber Honey or Sugar Syrup in the Sections

On this subject there appears in the Canadian Bee Journal the following words of caution:

A late issue of the American Bee Journal advises bee-keepers to make their hives heavy for winter by leaving plenty of sealed combs of dark honey, arguing that the dark honey thus placed will really be equal next season, pound for pound, with light honey. Commenting on this, Editor Hutchinson, in the Review, asks bee-keepers to see how much of this dark honey will go into the sections, intimating, of course, that there is not much likelihood of dark honey, or sugar syrup either, going into the supers. Seems to me that Mr. Hutchinson is treading on dangerous ground, for surely any practical apiarist knows that, if a brood-nest is full of any kind of honey or syrup, provided the colony has a prolific queen and swarming does not take place, quite a large percentage of this honey or syrup will find its way into the surplus apartments. This is something that any one can test for himself, and if the novice has colonies that go into the clover-flow with the brood-chamber full of buckwheat honey, he may decide that while experience is a good teacher, it is sometimes a little expensive.

If we take the broadest view of the question: "Is dark honey carried from the brood-chamber into the sections?" the answer must undoubtedly be in the affirmative. Not only some, but all honey, light or dark, that is put into sections, is carried there from the brood-chamber. For so good an authority as G. M. Doolittle tells us that when a fielder brings in a load of nectar she does not go with it to the super, but deposits it in some cell of the brood-chamber, whence it is afterward carried into the surplus apartment.

In the present case, however, the question is not to be taken in this unlimited sense, it being rather whether honey stored in the brood-chamber in the fall, or given in the

form of sealed combs in the spring, is likely to be carried into the super. If there be in the brood-chamber so much honey that there is not room for the queen to lay, will not the bees empty some of the cells? and what can they do with the honey but to carry it into the super?

It must be remembered, however, that the time when the brood-nest is expanding—in other words, the time when additional room will be needed—is before the harvest, when very little honey is coming, and a large amount of honey is daily consumed in the rearing of brood. When a frame of sealed honey is given in the spring, it does not take the place of a comb having any brood in it, but of one without brood, and with little or no honey. Will not the honey in it be needed for the increasingly large amount of brood as fast as it is necessary to empty such honey out of the cells? Certainly the danger seems rather remote, under ordinary circumstances. But, after all, the matter is one not of theory, but of plain fact.

In buckwheat regions it ought not to be an uncommon thing for much buckwheat honey to be found in the brood-nests, and also for sealed combs of such honey to be given in the spring, and it ought to be easy for bee-keepers, under such circumstances, to say whether they have found buckwheat honey in sections during the clover flow. If they have, then it is important to know about how much the brood-chamber must be crowded with honey before the danger-line is reached.

The question is not one of supreme importance so long as only honey is involved, but it is one of first moment when it comes to the danger of having sugar syrup carried into the sections. Better never feed sugar than to run any such risk, if risk there is.

Bees Can't Puncture Grapes

We have received the following from Mr. C. P. Dadant, President of the National Bee-Keepers' Association, concerning the belief in some places that bees destroy grapes:

MR. EDITOR:—Referring to the article on page 757, by Mr. John Kennedy, I wish to reassure him in favor of the bee. The bees can not puncture grapes. This may be tested thoroughly by inserting a few bunches inside of the hives. Such grapes as may have been already punctured or damaged by the handling will be cleaned out by them; the others will wilt in the hive and will often be found glued fast by the bees, that aim to cover them with propolis, as they do with anything which they can not remove.

In addition to birds and other insects than the bee, there is great loss caused by the fruit bursting from overfullness. I would suggest that this may have been the trouble in the case mentioned, for when the fruit ripens, it often swells with juice to such an extent that the skin can not contain it, and the result is a bursting, which always begins at the stem-end, as mentioned by Mr. Kennedy. If the bees are short of food they discover this at once, and begin sucking at the ruptured spot, so that they might well be suspected of causing the damage. If the bunch is picked off, the sap quits running, and the berry is much less likely to burst. So when you insert a bunch of grapes in a hive of bees, there is but little chance of that sort of damage happening. To me, the most positive evidence that the bees can not puncture grapes is that they suck everything clean in damaged grapes, and leave the unpunctured ones. I have actually seen bees starve on sound grapes.

In addition to these evidences there is a physiological fact. The bees' mandibles are not sharp, but rounding, much like spoons, and they can no more puncture a smooth-skin berry than you or I could bite into a smooth plaster wall. The evidences in favor of the bee need a little demonstration, but they are just as palpable as the fact that the earth revolves around the sun, and not the sun around the earth, as we might be led to believe, and as our ancestors believed because of having only the testimony of their eyes.

It is lucky for us that our little friends, the bees, are unable to do damage of the kind mentioned, for there is no doubt that if they had the ability to puncture fruit they would often be guilty of it.

Hamilton, Ill.

Mr. Dadant is a careful observer, and is also an extensive vineyardist. The poor bees are often accused wrongfully, and especially when some people find their grapes suffering from an uncertain cause. The fact that bees

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can not bite through a smooth surface like the skin of a grape clears them of any guilt in this matter. It is true that bees can pull some things to pieces when they can get hold of them with their mandibles, but it should always be remembered that they can only press or pinch with them, and not bite at all. The mandibles are not sharp, and so can not cut anything.

Transferring Combs

The matter of transferring combs is of much less importance than formerly, yet for those who still have transferring to do, the following plan taken from the Irish Bee Journal may be worth considering:

Trim straight the bottom edge of the comb to be transferred. Let it rest on the bottom-bar of the frame (having previously fixed to the top-bar a piece of foundation of such a size and shape as to fill the remaining space). Fasten horizontally around the outside of the frame one or more pieces of wire—sufficient to prevent the comb from falling sidewise. If necessary put another wire around the frame

perpendicularly. Without any further attention the foundation will be drawn out, the piece of comb fixed, and the result will be a frame filled with comb. When the bees have completed the work of fixing, cut the enveloping wires. This will be found a handier and neater way of transferring a comb than the old method of tying it with tapes and a false bottom-bar.—W. MUNRO.

"Tested Queen" Defined

What is a tested Italian queen? The orthodox answer is that it is a queen whose worker progeny shows 3 yellow bands. When Italians were first introduced into this country, that answer fully met the case, and it was safe to say that such a queen was of pure Italian blood and purely mated. Is such the case now? We have developed bees that show 5 yellow bands. Suppose a queen of 5-banded origin meets a drone with such an amount of black blood that the resulting worker progeny shows 3 yellow bands. The old answer will not hold good. What, then, is a tested queen?

but are firm believers in the standard Langstroth frame and hive, that can be tiered up or torn down. With this kind of hive we can fit any hive with supers, either for extracted or comb honey. After trying a good many hives, we have come to the above conclusion.

Queening in the fall is also one of our ideals for a successful apiary. We are preparing for still more extended operations and improvements. Our strawberry field is just in front of the bee-yard. The dwelling-house is at the southeast corner of the yard, but we had to get on the cave back of the house for the view we wanted, so the residence is omitted from the picture.

D. J. BLOCHER.

A Bee-Disease Inspectors' Meeting
will be held in San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 12, being the Monday following the last day of the meeting of the National Bee-Keepers' Association on Nov. 8, 9, and 10. Dr. E. F. Phillips, Acting in Charge of Apiculture in the Bureau of Entomology, Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., sent us the letter published below, dated Sept. 7. At that time it was expected to hold the meeting of the Bee-Disease Inspectors in San Antonio on Nov. 7, but on account of the Home-Seekers' Excursion tickets not being sold before Nov. 6, it would have been impossible for many to reach San Antonio in time for any meeting on the 7th, so the date of this meeting has been changed to Nov. 12. In view of this, we have changed the following letter to read "Nov. 12" where it was written "Nov. 7," and have made a few other slight changes to correspond with the changed date.

DEAR MR. YORK:—I herewith enclose a circular letter which was sent out some time ago, which will explain itself.

After hearing from a number of Inspectors who agree to be present, it has been decided that this meeting will be held in San Antonio, Tex., on Nov. 12, 1906. A number of persons prominent in bee-disease work will be present, and a good meeting will result.

To this meeting all persons interested in work on bee-disease are invited. The attention of persons interested in having bee-disease laws passed is particularly called to this gathering, and such persons are urged to attend. It is, of course, to be understood that discussion of subjects foreign to bee-disease will not be allowed, nor will any one be permitted to occupy the time of the meeting in riding a "hobby." This meeting is not part of the National Bee-Keepers' Association meeting, nor is it in any way connected with it. The proceedings will probably be published, so that the discussions will be available for those not present.

E. F. PHILLIPS,
Acting in Charge of Apiculture.

Accompanying the foregoing letter was the following, signed by two inspectors of apries, and also Dr. Phillips; and, as in the above letter, we have changed "Nov. 7" to read "Nov. 12":

To THE BEE-DISEASE INSPECTORS:—

As you are well aware, the brood-diseases of bees are a serious thing to American bee-keepers. While the inspectors are fighting the progress of disease to the best of their ability, yet lack of laws, inadequate laws, and an absence of uniformity of method and of co-operation make the work difficult.

For these reasons it has appeared advisable to call a meeting of inspectors for the purpose of remedying this condition of affairs in so far as is possible, by consultation and co-operation of persons familiar with this work.

If the inspectors now at work on these problems can meet together, there are several



Mr. James A. Green, of Colorado, it seems was unintentionally misrepresented in a recent issue of this Journal. He corrects us as follows:

FRIEND YORK:—On page 814, you quote me as saying that "I will harvest a full crop of honey." Did I really write that? If so, it was a "slip of the pen." One of my apiaries, it is true, produced what might be called a full crop, but 2 others produced only a fair crop, and the other 3 apiaries had only a poor yield, so that I will not have over half a crop. I meant to say that I would harvest a fair crop. To claim more is an error that I would like to have corrected, as it is far from the truth.

Neither am I inspector of apiaries at present, as I resigned the office of bee-inspector last spring. I had too much work of my own to attend properly to the inspectorship, so gave it up. Mr. H. S. Groves, of Fruita, is my successor.

JAMES A. GREEN.

Mr. Green is right. A typographical error made him say "full crop" instead of "fair crop," as he had written it.

We supposed, of course, that Mr. Green was still a bee-inspector, not having heard of his resignation.

The Apiary of E. G. Carr, of New Egypt, N. J., appears on the front page of this issue. Mr. Carr wrote as follows on Aug. 31:

I am sending a photograph of my apiary of 25 colonies, increased from 19 in the spring. The crop is nearly a failure here this year—about 150 pounds of extracted and 50 pounds of comb honey. Very little clover survived last winter, and what there was left evidently had no nectar in it, as the bees did not notice it. There was a good flow from locust, and some from poplar.

My little girl of 5½ years is shown holding

a frame of bees. She has practically no fear of them; and, if she is stung, she goes into the house to get something to put on the part stung, and then is right back with me among the hives.

Like all other bee-keepers, I am hoping for a good honey crop next season.

I anxiously look forward to the weekly arrival of the "old reliable" American Bee Journal.

The Apiary of D. J. Blocher, of Pearl City, Ill., is shown on the first page. When sending the photograph on Aug. 9, Mr. B. wrote as follows:

The picture I send is one of the home yard of golden Italians. It is about 6 miles southeast of the Black Hawk Monument, where Black Hawk, the Indian chief, took his stand before leaving the State.

We run from 70 to about 100 colonies in this yard, in addition to many 2 and 3 frame nuclei of standard Langstroth size. Only a part of the yard is seen.

The finest breeder I ever owned is in this yard. She is now in her 4th summer, and doing as good laying as ever. She is of my own rearing.

I have had some bees since boyhood, but on account of working on the farm, and afterward going to school, I have given them less attention than I do now. The way I care for this yard is clearly seen. It is moved every week, and salt is put around the hives to kill the grass next to them. Between the first and second rows of hives is seen the watering trough, which is kept going the whole summer. Salt is added every little while. The entire yard is in the open. All dummies are kept on the sunny side of the hive. I have 2 other yards which I run in conjunction with this one for queens and honey. Last spring we planted a wind-break west of the yard, and contemplated planting more, also a few trees in the yard for some shade.

We are slow to take hold of new inventions,

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subjects which could be discussed to advantage. Among these might be mentioned:

Comparisons of methods of treatment.

Locality differences in disease and treatment.

Foul brood laws now in force, with suggestions for improvement.

As a time and place of meeting San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 12, 1906, has been suggested, since the National Bee-Keepers' Association meets there just before, and the inspectors would thereby get to attend both meetings. At the same time it would also add to the interest in the National Bee-Keepers' Association's Convention. The low railroad rates would make the expense less heavy. Another suggestion is Washington, D. C., where it would be possible to have the bacteriological side of bee-disease work explained and demonstrated. No decision of time and place will be made except by choice of the majority of inspectors who agree to come.

One of the important results of such a meeting would be that persons interested in the passage of new foul brood laws would have an opportunity to consult with those already familiar with the fighting of bee-diseases, and get suggestions as to the best form of law. If such a meeting is held, it will be open to all persons interested, but it is understood that it is to be strictly an inspectors' meeting, and other persons will not be allowed to take up valuable time of the meeting in discussions.

The questions which we wish to have answered by the various inspectors are:

1. Are you in favor of such a meeting?

2. Will you come?

3. Will your State or County pay your expenses?

4. What is your choice of time and place?

In case of a good attendance and a successful meeting, arrangements can easily be made for the publication of the proceedings of the meeting without cost to the inspectors.

We feel that attendance at such a meeting by the inspector would be of sufficient value to the community that the State or County employing him should be willing to pay the necessary expenses of such a trip.

The hearty co-operation of every person interested in this work is earnestly requested. Such a meeting will be for the purpose of furthering work in fighting bee-diseases, and not to advance the interests of any person except the bee-keepers of America.

Kindly write at an early date and let us know what you think of such a movement. A candid, full reply is solicited.

Truly yours,

W. Z. HUTCHINSON,
Inspector of Apiaries for Michigan.
N. E. FRANCE,
Inspector of Apiaries for Wisconsin.
E. F. PHILLIPS,
U. S. Department of Agriculture.

It is hoped that every bee-disease inspector in the United States may be present at the special meeting to be held on Nov. 12. It will be a very important gathering, and has the hearty co-operation and interest of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, D. C., which is so ably represented by Dr. Phillips.

The National Convention Report will be completed next week. It was crowded out of this issue.

The Ohio Farmer, one of the leading weekly farm papers of this country, we offer in connection with the American Bee Journal, both for one year, for \$1.35. A sample copy of the Ohio Farmer may be had by sending the request to Cleveland, Ohio. All orders for subscriptions on this combination rate of \$1.35 for the two should be mailed to the office of the American Bee Journal.



Preparing for Next Season During Winter

BY GRANT STANLEY

Too many bee-keepers are inclined to work their bees for all they are worth in order to secure as large a crop of honey as possible, and then give them some sort of protection for winter, and think there is nothing more to be done until the following spring. This is certainly a mistake. If we are to accomplish the best results from our bees, it will be found necessary to work in their behalf the greater part of the year, and, of course, this includes the winter months. There is so much to get ready for the next season's harvest; and one thing the bee-keeper should feel thankful for is, that he can do this work during winter, when there is no work to be done directly with the bees, and not be compelled to do it at a time when they are storing, and possibly swarming. I say we should feel thankful for this, as it certainly enables us to get everything, from the smallest to the highest in detail, in perfect readiness for the next season's harvest.

With a large number of colonies the bee-keeper has all he can do, and often more, to see that they are all being properly manipulated for best results. All colonies wintered on the summer stands should be made perfectly level by the use of a spirit-level each spring and fall, and though this may have been done the previous spring, you will find the hives have settled considerably out of shape as a result of the weight of the season's harvest.

In the fall, the bee-supply manufacturers offer a discount on the purchase of supplies. This is a benefit to the bee-keeper in two ways: he can secure his supplies cheaper then, and have them in readiness to put up during the winter months. The sections can be folded, comb foundation put in them and placed in the supers, all ready to go on the hives.

The first supers intended for the bees the following spring should contain one or more clean bait-sections in the center of each super, so they will be directly over the brood-chamber, and induce the bees to work in them.

All supers should be piled one on top of the other, so that no dust or anything can reach the sections, as bees do not like to work on dirty foundation. If the supers do not pile close enough to keep out the dust, lay several thicknesses of newspaper between each 2 supers to close up the cracks.

All hives and hive-parts should be put together during winter, and if the

bee-keeper has a work-shop and stove, this work should be a delight. Provide a cupboard in the work-shop, and when you run across anything illustrated in the various bee-papers you desire to make, place it in the cupboard and it will be right at hand when wanted.

Hive-stands can also be made, if more increase is desired, wintering-cases and shipping-cases put up—in fact, everything should be done during winter so that no work of this nature whatever need be in the way at the arrival of spring. If this work is all done during winter, we will also be able to give the bees much closer attention during the harvest, and certainly secure more honey.

Use a good quality of paint for the hives. The ready-mixed kinds are not worth a great deal for bee-hives. Buy the best grade of white lead and oil, and mix the paint yourself, and you will not be disappointed. As most bee-keepers prefer white paint, the mixing is not hard to do.

The long winter evenings are an excellent time for reading the bee-papers. Remember, we owe our success to reading and thinking. Reading spurs to thought, thought to action, and these bring success. Don't wait until spring, but lay your plans now, and work right up to them; and when the needs of next season's harvest dawn, you will not have a great deal of trouble in supplying them.

Nisbet, Pa.

No. 19—Dadant Methods of Honey-Production

BY C. P. DADANT

Those who have read my preceding article have learned how we rear the queen-cells. We now proceed to make nuclei. Some may object that nuclei are not what they want. They want full colonies. Have a little patience. We have started with the intention of making increase without too much sacrifice, but with the expectation of making all strong for winter. We also expect some queens to be handed over to full colonies to replace worthless queens. In either case we begin with nuclei.

If, however, the bee-keeper wants to make the increase with the greatest possible speed, and without having the trouble of a number of manipulations, he may make swarms at once, which will need no further attention, in ordinary seasons, except to ascertain that they have laying queens. To this end, however, it is necessary to use a number of colonies that would probably have produced surplus honey. It is,

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therefore, not the most economical method, but it is the speediest. Take away the queen of a colony, one or two combs of brood and all the bees that cover those two combs, and place them in a new hive with sheets of foundation in the frames. This hive must be placed on the old stand, and the old hive is removed to the stand of another colony of rather under medium strength; this latter colony being placed in a new spot. The two combs of brood that have been removed must be replaced with sheets of foundation; this is important, for otherwise the bees would build drone-combs in the place of these combs.

The queenless swarm thus made on the 9th day is supplied with a queen-cell on the 10th day, or the day following the dividing of the colonies. This length of time is necessary for the bees to make sure of the loss of their queen; otherwise, they would destroy the queen-cell given them. The queen-cell may be introduced in a queen-cell protector. But if it is inserted in the center of a comb of brood, there is very little danger of its being destroyed by the bees. The queen will hatch, usually within 2 days, and in about 10 days of the making of the division, they will have a laying queen. When swarms are thus made of considerable strength at the outset, it is necessary to examine them to make sure they are not rearing queen cells of their own brood with the expectation of swarming with the first queen. Such cells must be destroyed.

Swarms of this kind should be made with colonies of only fair strength—such colonies as are not likely to produce much if any surplus. They become strong at once, and in a good season the divided colonies, and especially the colonies that have furnished only field-bees by their removal to a new location, will often be able to furnish additional bees or brood later.

The above method is not so economical as the nucleus method, however, for there are a few days lost before the queens lay. By the nucleus method we rear our queens first, and strengthen the nuclei afterwards, or as many of them as we choose to make into full colonies.

All the text-books give instructions on how to make nuclei. Take 1, 2 or 3 combs with brood from some colony and place these in an empty hive, or in a nucleus hive, with a goodly number of young bees. You must bear in mind that some of the bees may return to the mother colony; the old bees surely will, and for this reason, more bees than needed should be taken. We usually place these nuclei in a shaded spot, and close them over night so the bees will become used to them. If the nuclei are made late in the afternoon there will be no danger from suffocation. The empty space at the side of the combs given must be filled with a dummy to reduce the amount of room that needs to be kept warm. Nuclei made with divisible frames, such as I mentioned on page 232, or such as recommended by F. Greiner, on page 343, will make a much more compact diminutive colony with a less number of bees and a less amount of combs and

brood than those made with full frames.

These nuclei are made on the 9th day of the queen-cell rearing, and on the 10th day the queen-cells are inserted in them, one to each. If the work is done carefully there will be no failure. It is well, however, for the bee-keeper to have another colony rearing queen-cells 2 days after the first, so that in case of failure other queen-cells may be at hand to replace those that are destroyed. If the cells are in good shape, after a few hours of introduction they will come to maturity. I have often inserted queen-cells on the morning of the 10th day, and found them hatching the same evening.

By the nucleus method we prepare our queens at the lowest possible cost. When the queens are fertilized and laying, we may, at our option, increase our little colonies to full strength by the insertion of a comb of brood from time to time, or, if we wish, by moving the nucleus to the stand of a full colony, which is, in its turn, brought to the stand of the nucleus, thus causing the weak colony to gain all the field-bees of the other in exchange for its own field-bees. This may be done without trouble during a honey harvest, for the bees are then peaceable, and although they know the new comers are strangers, they welcome them as we would welcome a friend who brings us a gift. The nucleus must at once be enlarged, of course, to a capacity sufficient for the accommodation of its increased field-force.

In all these manipulations we aim to take nothing from our best colonies, aside from the brood taken from our best queen, and even that is only an exchange—a loan. The principle upon which we work is that the best colonies are the only ones from which we may expect a bountiful harvest. In all seasons but extraordinary ones, we have colonies that are of fair, average strength and yet yield but little. You daily expect to see them at work in the supers, but day after day passes without change. The reason is that they have become strong a little too late for good results. These are the colonies from which we may take our increase by the above-named method without any perceptible decrease in the amount of crop expected, for what we want in making swarms is plenty of young bees and good queens.

By the natural method of allowing bees to swarm we get our increase, of course, from the best colonies, but we do away with our best chances for a honey crop. This method gives us both honey and swarms.

Hamilton, Ill.

Black Building Paper for Winter Protection of Hives

BY ARTHUR C. MILLER

For several years I have been using and advocating black building paper as a winter protection to hives. The theory I had was that while being wind and water proof, it would, by absorbing

the sun's rays, help warm and dry the hives, thereby enabling the bees to feed and clean house, and by its poor conductivity by contact, and by its not fitting tight to the hive, would be so slow in permitting the escape of the heat that it would give the bees ample time to re-cluster. The results have been all and more than I expected.

Other bee-keepers have tried the plan, some exactly as I gave it, others modifying it to meet their own theories. Some have, through fortunate combinations, made important advance, while some others, governed by prejudice, have dismissed the notion without trial. Among the latter was one who, in commenting on the scheme, said he had tried "virtually the same thing," having "wrapped hives in paper and slipped over all an outside winter-case." The "results were unsatisfactory."

Among those who have tried it, and developed it, is Mr. Allen Latham, of Connecticut, who runs many small apiaries scattered from the tip of Cape Cod to the Connecticut River. Some of his yards he sees but twice a year, and his Cape bees he does not see from Sept. 1 of one year until July 10 of the next. Obviously he must have a system and appliances which need very little care. In his out-apiaries he uses a hive which outdoes Mr. Dadant's for size, having 20 frames 16x11 inches, inside measure. They are arranged all on one level, the queen being restricted to 8 frames at the front of the hive.

The hives are built on the well-known, air-spaced, paper-lined-walls principle, and covered with black waterproof paper. Even on bleak Cape Cod, where the winter winds have an unchecked sweep of thousands of miles, his bees winter perfectly, and his crops on that seemingly barren sand-pit average about 100 pounds of honey per colony. Neither there nor inland does he have to putter with spring feeding or "stimulation," no "contracting of brood-nest" and similar nonsense.

What would the advocates of the 8-frame shallow hive think of letting their tiny colonies winter in a box approximately 3 feet long, 1 foot deep, and 1½ feet wide? Look at their expense in labor, in appliances, in feeding, and in winter loss. Mr. Latham's labor item is so small per colony that it is not worth computing; and his winter losses are so few and far between that he almost forgets that such a thing ever occurs. His is a profitable, common-sense sort of apiculture. The air-spaced, black-paper-covered hive has come to stay with him and many others; and its use is spreading.

Providence Co., R. I.

Our Wood Binder (or Holder) is made to take all the copies of the American Bee Journal for a year. It is sent by mail for 20 cents. Full directions accompany. The Bee Journals can be inserted as soon as they are received, and thus preserved for future reference. Or we will send it with the American Bee Journal a year—both for \$1.10. Address the office of the American Bee Journal.

National Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its 37th annual convention in San Antonio, Tex., Nov. 8, 9, and 10. Will you be there?

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Conducted by EMMA M. WILSON, Marengo, Ill.

Bee-Keeping as a Business for Women

Objections to bee-keeping as a business for women are very nicely met and answered by Mrs. Anna Botsford Comstock, of New York, in *Gleanings in Bee Culture*, who says:

Two questions invariably "pop up" at us when this matter of feminine bee-keeping is discussed: One is, "Why shouldn't a woman keep bees?" and the other is, "Why should a woman keep bees?" Like most other questions, these may be answered more or less rationally with proper consideration.

Taking the "why shouldn't" question first, we are bound to confess that nowadays there is no effective reason why a woman should not do almost anything that she takes into her enterprising little head to do. But quite aside from the consideration of woman's prowess, there are one or two reasons that might deter some of the faint-hearted fair from undertaking bee-keeping. There is no use of trying to gloss over the fact that there is a great deal of hard work and heavy lifting in the care of a profitable apiary. The hard work is really no objection, as most women of whatever class are at it anyway. But lifting heavy hives is certainly not particularly good exercise for any woman, although I must confess that I have never lifted half so strenuously when caring for bees as I used to on the farm when we moved the cook-stove into the summer kitchen, accomplishing this feat by our feminine selves, rather than to bring to the surface any of the latent profanity which seems to be engendered in the masculine bosom when taking part in this seasonal hegira.

There are at least two ways of obviating this feminine disability in bee-keeping. One practised successfully by several women, is through the use of a Boardman hive-cart, which almost solves the problem if the bees are wintered out-of-doors, and don't have to be carried up and down cellar stairs; the other method is to get some man to do the lifting and carrying. It may be the husband, the father, the brother, the son, or the hired man; but as his work can be done at a time which can be planned for, it is not so difficult for the men of the establishment to give the help needed. I am sure my husband would say that I am quite enthusiastically in favor of the man solution of this problem; but his opinion does not count for much, because he loves the bees so enthusiastically that I have to beg for a chance to work with them at all, although he virtuously points out the hives to people as "Mrs. Comstock's bees."

Another "shouldn't" reason might be that women are afraid of bee-stings. This falls flat, from the fact that women are not a bit more nervous than men in this respect. This year, when I was struggling to hive a swarm from a most difficult position, an interested man stood off at a safe distance in a most pained state of mind. He was a courteous gentleman, and he felt that it was outrageous for me to have to do the work alone, but he did not dare to come to my aid, and I think he considered my temerity in dealing with the swarm as almost scandalous.

ANNA BOTSFORD COMSTOCK.

There, does not that meet the objections in as racy a manner as could be desired? Is there any sort of sense in saying that a woman is more afraid of stings than a man? And is she at all likely to make any more fuss about the pain of the sting? Does a man or a woman make the most fuss about a toothache?

Really, the only valid objection for which there seems any sort of ground is as to the matter of physical strength. And doesn't many a woman exert more physical strength in the course of 24 hours than her liege lord, even though he be able to lift a greater number of pounds? The man who carries on bee-keeping extensively is tired out at the end of the day's work, not so much because of the exertion of any great amount of strength at a time, as of the continuance of it, and for real endurance, hour after hour, pit a woman against a man, any time.

While endorsing Mrs. Comstock's view that help can be had at the heaviest parts of the work, it may be pertinent to ask whether Mr. Man never gets help in the same way.

"Making Money by Keeping Bees"

Woman's Life, a journal presumably published in Ireland, contains an article on "Making Money by Keeping

Bees," which, according to quotations in the Irish Bee Journal, shows that writers for women's journals in Ireland are not a whit behind their sisters in this country when it comes to substituting the imagination for actual observation in the apiary. Just a few items over which the editor of the Irish Bee Journal makes merry with genuine Irish wit, may be here given:

"No apiarist is so greedy as to claim every section which the bees have made; some are always left in a frame in the center of the hive to supply the queen and her subjects with food during the winter."

"During the long, cold months when flowers are conspicuous by their absence, the bees must be fed regularly with artificial pollen and with a stimulating syrup."

"Sometimes, however, it is absolutely necessary to dispense with a swarm to prevent overcrowding, and when this is the case the top frame should be removed and the bees shaken off into a skep or bee-box and offered for sale, either privately or by advertisement, and should it be a good swarm, weighing something under 20 pounds—bees are always sold by weight—it is worth about a guinea."

"The queen is usually kept in the center of the hive, shut off by the 'queen-excluder,' through which only the bees, whose duty it is to feed her, ever dare to enter."

There can any Yankee sister beat that? Leave some sections in the center of the hives for winter stores! Practise stimulative feeding in winter! To prevent overcrowding, "dispense" with a swarm by shaking off something under 20 pounds—say a hundred thousand bees! Wonder how many pounds of bees will be left in the mother colony. Evidently it would not do to have too many such colonies in one place, for when 20 pounds are shaken off, they are to be put into a skep or bee-box and offered for sale. A good market for such prolific bees could easily be found in this country.

Neither does the article lack in pictorial illustration, for Editor Digges, evidently deeply impressed, says it is "decorated by a radiant girl in a pretty dress and sunbonnet, standing before 2 skeps, and gently feeding 11 flying bees with a sprig of double hollyhock."



Conducted by MORLEY PETTIT, Villa Nova, Ont.

Storing Empty Combs

Theoretically, the room in which empty combs are to be stored should be perfectly free from mice. But, since it is usually impossible to exclude mice from the room, one must make a strenuous effort to exclude them from the supers or hives in which the combs are kept. If carefully piled after all en-

trances have been closed, this is not a difficult thing to do, although careful and precise work must be done that no cracks or uncovered places be left. A small hole will let mice in, and cause the loss of all the combs in an entire pile of supers. And it is surprising what damage a few mice can do.

Where one has a honey-house sufficiently large, the problem of where to store empty combs is readily solved

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But many farmers who keep bees only in a limited way, do not have a commodious honey-house, and must, therefore, do the best they can without it. In this case, an upper room in some out-building is about the best place that can be found. Any room with a tight floor will do quite as well, of course, provided it is not used for too many other things, so that the supers will be constantly more or less in the way. Under these circumstances they would probably be frequently jarred or otherwise disturbed so that mice would gain access, or the combs become broken and damaged.

First, leave all surplus combs in the hive or super in which they belong. See that the ends of all frames fit down into the rabbets. Next, nail pieces of lath, or other thin lumber, over all entrances; then pile the hives, one over another, as high as convenient. Cover the top hive carefully. If the floor is not tight or smooth, boards should be laid over it, on which to set the piles. See that each hive or super sits evenly over the one below it, and make sure that no cracks or holes are left anywhere. Stored in this way in a suitable place all combs should come out in the spring clean and whole.

Few small bee-keepers value their empty combs as highly as they should. The old-time practise was to melt up every scrap of comb not in actual use for wax. But now no well-informed bee-keeper would melt up a comb that could be used again, as it is better understood how they are worth more in the hive.

It is estimated that from 10 to 20 pounds of honey are required to produce one of wax. Wax is simply the fat of bees, and in order to produce it an unusual amount of honey must be consumed. The amount varies according to conditions, just as the amount of corn necessary to produce a pound of tallow or lard varies under different conditions.—Family Herald and Weekly Star.

Placing Combs in the Extractor

When the uncapped combs are put into the cages of the extractor, they should be so placed that the bottom-bars go around first, for thus the honey is more easily thrown out, as it leaves the cells in the direction of the pitch given to them by the bees when they are building their combs.—F. G. HERMAN, in Michigan Farmer.

This is a fine point few have thought of. It is true in theory, but can not be carried out in a reversible extractor, where the combs go first one way and then the other, unless the crank is turned backwards after the reversing.

Ontario Crop Reports—Swarming

The Ontario Department of Agriculture, August Crop Bulletin, reports the following on bees and honey:

The season has been rather a poor one for the apiary. Swarming was uneven, and, on the whole, unsatisfactory. Clover was a disappointment; basswood was better, but only fair; buckwheat promises well. The weather was too wet for best results at the gathering time, and it is estimated that the average

yield per colony will be between 35 and 40 pounds. Bees are otherwise in a thrifty condition.—Editorial in Canadian Bee Journal.

The above will give an idea of the Ontario Report, as given by the Government Crop Bulletin. As I mentioned in this department some time ago, the conclusion that the excessive rains in some sections injured the crop is not logical, because medium dry and very dry sections suffered, if anything,

worse than where they had much rain.

The way the undue prominence "swarming" is given in the Report, fits in with the popular and question-asking idea, is too good to let pass. Because more advanced bee-keeping looks on the most "regular" swarming, or any other kind, as "unsatisfactory" and contrary to the best interests of the bee-keeper. There is no profit in natural swarming to any one.



Conducted by LOUIS H. SCHOLL, New Braunfels, Tex.

Preparing for Winter

October is our last month, generally, here in Texas and the South, in which to care for our colonies for winter quarters. There should be a good supply of honey for winter stores. All weaklings should be united, this being most easily done by simply setting one weak colony on top of another weak one, leaving it to the bees as to which one will be the queen of the two.

At the last examination the honey-combs may be placed below and the empty ones removed or set on top. In our warmer climate this latter is hardly necessary, especially if some honey comes in.

Bee-Keepers are Preparing for the Fair

The Local Committee plans to entertain the National Association Nov. 8, 9, and 10.

CENT A MILE RATE ON ALL RAILROAD LINES.

Such were the head-lines in the daily papers of San Antonio after the sessions of the Executive Committee, the Committee on Finance, and the Committee on Arrangements and Entertainment of the Texas Bee-Keepers' Association, which met in this city recently for the purpose of beginning preparations for the entertainment of the National Bee-Keepers' Convention, Nov. 8, 9, and 10. The meeting was a lively one, and many suggestions were offered to make the stay of the visitors a pleasant one.

The National Convention will be held during the time of the International Fair in San Antonio, and cheap railroad fares have been obtained, a cent a mile rate being given on all lines from all parts of the State. There will be a special day for the bee-keepers, known as "Bee-Keepers' Day," and the afternoon of the first day of the convention, Nov. 8, will be spent on the Fair grounds by the bee-keepers of the convention.

The bee-keepers' exhibits will be one of the attractions there. Although there was a shortage in the Texas honey crop, it is believed that there will be a creditable exhibit again this year, of bee-keepers' products. The Fair Association's catalog contains annually a splendid premium-list, and it has appropriated a sum of about \$350 in premiums. To the bee-keepers it should be of especial interest this year to donate anything that they may have good enough to go on exhibition; besides, the premiums offered will pay well for the trouble.

The general arrangement of a preliminary program has been decided upon by the committee about as follows:

There will be a Welcome address by the President of the Texas Bee-Keepers' Association, welcoming the visiting bee-men to Texas; followed by another address of welcome to San Antonio, the person to deliver the address not having been decided upon. The general program will be taken up with routine business until noon of the first day, the afternoon to be spent at the Fair grounds.

On the second day there will be morning and afternoon sessions of the convention until 4 o'clock, when there will be a trolley ride through the city free to the bee-keepers. At 6 to 8 p.m. a Mexican supper will be served free by the Texans to the National visitors. Of course, there will be fun for the Texans, for it is not believed that Dr. Miller, and the host of them, have ever enjoyed the pleasure of such a feast. (Your humble reporter does not know whether the "tender" visitors will be handed bills of fare or not.) At 8 p.m. a night session, including an address by Judge Pascal, of San Antonio, on "The Bee-Keeping Resources of Texas." It was also suggested that arrangements be made for stereopticon views and moving-picture lecture for this evening.

The third day has been left entirely open for sessions and the general program, to the choice of the National Bee-Keepers' Association.

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A spacious hall has been secured for the meetings, just two blocks from the International and Great Northern Railroad depot. This hall is situated somewhat away from the main and noisy part of the city, and should be an admirable place for the convention sessions.

Hotel accommodations have been secured at the Grand Central Hotel, located just intermediate on the same street from the above-named depot, or it is one block from the depot, and the hall one block from the hotel.

Further particulars will be given next week.

making full use of the splints, or else refusing them altogether. Of course, it might be that in some frames you used the splints hot enough for the wax to run off, and in other frames cool enough for a coating of wax to remain, and that in some way you gave the right kind to one colony and the wrong kind to another; but that does not seem probable.

I have never noticed but that the 1-16 wooden splints were used alike by Italians and hybrids, but there is a bare possibility that it might be different with the broom-corn. In any case the splints of wood, 1-16 square, work so well and cost so little, that there is no very great need to seek for anything else.

I may remark in passing, that I have said that the splints were sliced, but I have been told that I am mistaken about that, they being sawed. Your splints $\frac{1}{8}$ square took up so much room that one would expect that at least some of the cells over them would not be used by the queen. It is just possible that you would be able to have them $\frac{1}{8} \times 1-16$, and if these were well coated and pressed flat into the foundation, they might work as well as the 1-16 square.

Your report seems to show that when you do get the splints to work right, the combs are exceedingly satisfactory. I think that will be the general verdict.



Send Questions either to the office of the American Bee Journal, or to
DR. C. C. MILLER, Marengo, Ill.

Dr. Miller does not answer Questions by mail.

Drones With Yellow Bands

This season I noticed some drones with yellow bands on them. Is this anything unusual?

OHIO.

ANSWER.—It is nothing unusual where there is Italian blood; although the markings of the drones are not so uniform as those of the workers, the yellow appearing as blotches rather than bands. It may be that you have black bees, and so long as they remained black there would be no yellow on the drones. Then one or more of your young queens met drones from apiaries within 2 or 3 miles, said drones belonging to Italian or hybrid colonies, resulting in drones with yellow markings in your apiary.

Perhaps a Hunger-Swarm—Uniting Weak Colonies—Thick Syrup Uncapped for Winter Stores

I have only 3 colonies of bees, and they have been so weak that the moth have bothered them very much the past summer. I am feeding them now for winter. One colony is in fair shape for winter, but 2 are very weak, probably not enough bees to make more than one good colony. One of these swarmed out of the hive yesterday, but the queen was clipped, and so the bees came back. There were no moths in the combs, although there were a few—2 or 3—on the bottom-board. This colony has scarcely any honey in the hive, but some brood and plenty of pollen.

1. What was the cause of their swarming out?

2. Although these 2 weak colonies seem to have good queens, would it be best to unite them and then continue feeding for winter?

3. What is a good plan for uniting weak colonies in the fall?

4. Will bees winter on thick syrup put in the combs and left uncapped? IOWA.

ANSWERS.—1. It looks like a hunger-swarm, the bees swarming out because out of honey.

2. Yes, it is better to make sure of having the united colony pull through the winter than to run the risk of having both so weak as to be lost. But if you practise wintering in the cellar, a weak colony will make it which would be pretty sure to die outdoors.

3. If there is any choice of queens, kill the poorest 2 or 3 days before uniting. Then take an empty hive, and put into it a frame from each hive alternately, using the frames that are best till you have your hive full. Another way is to set the hive you have made queenless over the other hive, a sheet of

manilla paper between the hives, and a hole in the paper large enough for a single bee to pass through. In a few days you will find the paper thrown out in bits at the entrance and the bees united. Then you can reduce to one story, removing the extra frames.

4. Yes, but not so well as if they have time to cap it.

Foundation Splints of Wood and Broom-Corn

This season I decided to use splints to stay up the foundation in brood-frames, but I couldn't get them small enough to suit me. I could split them out of redwood very easily, as small as $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch square, but I believe you recommend 1-16. The $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch square splints make strong, straight combs, and no sagging of the upper cells of the foundation, as they do with the horizontal wiring, but the $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch splints are a little too big. I noticed that the queens skipped a good many cells where these splints were in the bottom of the cells.

I thought I had found a perfect substitute for both splints and wire in common broom-straw. So I put in several hundred frames with foundation, strengthened with 4 straws to the sheet; these straws were selected straight and all of a size as nearly as possible. They were placed in boiling wax and then laid on the foundation while hot, and also pressed into the foundation the same as wire. Those that were built out were the prettiest combs I ever saw, but the bees cut out the straws of about $\frac{1}{8}$ of them, leaving slits in the sheets $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch wide. Possibly it was the kind of bees that would account for it, for those colonies that kept the straws in made no attempt to remove them. There was a fairly good honey-flow at the time. The bees were low-grade hybrids. Can you guess what the trouble was? I would like very much to use the straws if I were sure that the bees would leave them in. They made no attempt to remove the splints.

CALIFORNIA.

ANSWER.—Your experiment is a very interesting one, and I don't know enough to be positive why you succeeded in some cases and not in others. I suspect, however, that the character of the bees had less to do with it than the condition of the straws of the broom-corn. Of course, you understand that in a splint of perfect broom-corn there is an outside flinty surface like glass, and if the splints were used hot enough when put into the foundation, there would be no outside coating of wax, and the bees would refuse to try to attach anything to the glassy surface.

Opposed to that view, however, is the fact, if I understand the matter correctly, that the matter went by colonies, each colony either

Bee-Gloves—Wax-Worms—Strange Bee-Noises

1. What kind of gloves do you think best for handling bees? Will bees sting through kid gloves?

2. Will the queen sometimes get through the queen-excluder?

3. What is meant by "splints" in frames?

4. How do wax-worms get in empty combs after being stored in a moth-proof box? I looked them over before putting them in the box, and a few weeks after there were worms in some of the combs.

5. On page 722, I notice some one from Wisconsin heard a strange noise from a colony of bees. I heard the same noise here some time ago, and it sounded to me like the noise that the gearing would make in machinery. I believe it came from the drones, as they were driven out by the workers.

6. Have you ever heard of "Prof. Jonkin and His Busier Bees," the man who crossed his bees with lightning-bugs? IOWA.

ANSWERS.—1. Bees will sting through anything as thin as kid gloves. Buckskin does better, but is not always proof against stings. Rubber gloves are good, but uncomfortable. Pigskin is probably as good as anything, and not expensive. It has a disagreeable smell, especially when new.

2. If the perforations are just right, a normal queen ought never to get through. Some say that a virgin will get through because smaller than a laying queen. But I am of the opinion that the thorax of a virgin is as large before as it is after she gets to laying, and no matter how large the abdomen of a laying queen may be, it is yielding, and if the thorax gets through the abdomen will follow.

3. Pieces of wood 1-16 inch square and long enough to reach from top-bar to bottom-bar, boiled in wax and pressed into the foundation vertically in brood-frames to prevent sagging. They have the advantage over wiring that they allow the foundation to come clear down to the bottom-bar. If used when conditions are favorable, they allow the frame to be entirely filled with comb from top to bottom. If used when little honey is coming in, the bees, instead of building clear down to the bottom-bar, are likely to gnaw a passage next the bottom-bar.

4. The eggs were there, and hatched out after being shut up in the box.

5. I think you are the first one to mention such a thing.

6. I don't remember to have heard of Prof. Jonkin, but I have heard of bees crossed with lightning-bugs. But I sometimes have doubts.

American Bee Journal



A Lingering Honey-Yield

We are having, and have had, a lingering honey-yield from fall weeds, that keeps the bees at work very beautifully. The best colonies add a little to their stores, and the poor ones get a living.

C. W. DAYTON.
Chatsworth, Calif., Sept. 24.

Still Hot—Late Swarming

It is hot, and some flowers yet, but the bees do not seem to find them "juicy."

My previous record of late swarming was Sept. 5, if I remember rightly. This year advances it to Sept. 7.

E. E. HASTY.
Toledo, Ohio, Sept. 26.

Bees Did Splendidly

Bees have done splendidly here this season. The honey-flow from cotton, heartsease, and smartweed, has been better than usual this fall. Goldenrod will not bloom for a couple of weeks yet. The bees work busily on it, but do not store much surplus.

J. W. K. SHAW & Co.
Loreauville, La., Sept. 26.

One Year in 20 Without Section Honey

I have kept bees for 20 years, and in all that time there was only one year without section honey. I always keep about 20 colonies of Italians, and for section honey I get 20 cents a pound; for extracted, 15 cents.

The American Bee Journal comes every Friday, and we love to read it; also to renew it.

E. B. KAUFFMAN.
Cornwall, Pa., Sept. 17.

Bees Were Busy This Year

From 7 colonies I took 223 pounds of honey; 11 other hives contain honey which has not yet been taken off. I took off the last honey July 16. At that time there was over 100 pounds in the other hives that I did not take. I will report later on the fall crop. The bees have been busier this year than ever before. I got 12½ cents per pound for all that I sold. Sometimes for extracted honey I get 10 cents for each 12 ounces.

J. L. PATTERSON.
Augusta, Ga., Oct. 1.

Effective Hive-Ventilation

As usual, I have been much interested and instructed by reading Mr. Dadant's article, on page 703, but a thought occurs to me regarding his statement as to ventilation that, while it may be old to him, may be new to many other readers. This is the way I do it:

I cut out a piece 1 by 3 inches in the end of the supers; over this opening I tack a piece of ordinary wire-screen, and over it I nail a piece of lath or other thin board at one end, the same size as the opening. The wire affords ample ventilation, and when too cold I simply move the cover over the wire, and the super is practically tightly covered. Besides, it enables one to see if the bees are active in the super or not. This method does away with the necessity of raising the brood-chamber or supers for ventilation; it entirely precludes the possibility of robbing, and tends to reduce swarming to a minimum.

During the warmest days last summer, and this year, so far, I have seen no undue masses of bees clustering at the entrance, nor has a swarm issued as yet.

I am pleased to report continued progress of the bees in storing honey in the supers, and

have no doubt they will do so as long as the sweet clover yields. Why they seem indifferent to white clover this year I can not account for, unless it is that the recent rain has washed out all the nectar from their cups.

But how the bees did revel over my poppies! That sort o' pollen must have a special attraction for them. Can it be possible that they are acquiring the "dope" habit, as some people use opium? I give the little workers credit for better judgment.

Just now my ornamental gourds are in blossom in the garden, and I notice the bees cover themselves as with a mantle with its bright yellow pollen.

Why do not all bee-keepers raise some of these interesting plants, so pretty, useful, and so hardy?

In looking over my bees I am agreeably surprised to note some very fat super-frames of nicely capped honey, which, as late as 2 weeks ago, were discouragingly bare. Bees are working hard, early and late, for both pollen and nectar, and the outlook is certainly pleasing. I sincerely trust all our fellow bee-keepers will experience a like refreshing that will insure at least plenty of stores in the brood-chamber instead of the prospect of having to feed their colonies over winter, as broadly intimated in many localities. While my surplus will not be great, it will be a long way better than nothing.

Chicago, Ill., Aug. 14. DR. PEIRO.

A Successful Bee-Keeper

Bees have done well this season. From 125 colonies, spring count, I secured 9000 pounds of honey, and increased to 200 colonies, all in good condition for winter.

I am having good success in disposing of my honey to the local trade, and am sure if bee-keepers would use a little more effort they would not need to ship honey to the large cities, help glut the market, and hold down prices. With the help of circulars and a little advertising I find it easy to dispose of my honey, and I see no reason why others can not be equally successful. Printers' ink does the business.

The "Old Reliable" is just fine, and to it I owe a large share of my success as a bee-keeper. I suppose I could get along without it, but I simply won't. We are too good friends to part, and every number is carefully put away and will be re-read during the long winter evenings.

E. H. HANSELMAN.
Augusta, Wis., Sept. 13.

Non-Swarming—Over-Production of Honey

The honey-flow is fine just at present, but the honey-flows were very scant last spring and summer. About Aug. 12 our fall flow opened. The first honey the bees got was from the Maderia vine, then cow-peas came next, followed by the wild cucumber and Spanish-needle, and the asters are just commencing to bloom, so the flow is likely to last for 3 or 4 weeks yet.

Talking about Mr. Davenport's non-swarming secret, I think I have given it in one of my letters published recently, namely, replacing the old queen with a young one of the current year's rearing, together with plenty of room; that is, I use mostly 10-frame hives, and if I find that I have a queen that becomes crowded, I give her another super with full-depth frames with combs drawn out; then at the opening of the honey-flow I alternate; that is, I take the top hive-body and put it at the bottom, and the bottom one on top. This brings the brood directly under the sections, and the bees will go to work in them in a hurry, in fact, they will enter sections three times as quickly as they would in a one-story hive, because in a one-story hive the center of the brood-nest probably brings 2, at most, of the frames filled with brood to the top-bars, whereas, in alternating, you secure nearly all frames filled to the top-bars with brood. The queen has plenty of room to lay in the bottom hive-body, and, not being cramped, of course

the bees have no notion of swarming. Now you may replace the old queen with a cell nearly ready to hatch; that is, with one that would hatch in from 24 to 48 hours, or you may give them a young laying queen. I prefer the latter, as brood-rearing will not be checked as it would in giving them a cell. In following this method you need look for no queen-cells, and any bee-keeper knows what a relief it is not to have to open hives and take out frame after frame to cut out queen-cells, besides the constant fussing with the bees, especially where one has 50 to 100 colonies to look after.

You must not wait till the bees get completely in the swarming notion, but attend to re-queening in time. I would like to have all who follow this method to report to the Bee Journal next year. I will further say that a neighbor has about 60 colonies, and nearly every one swarmed, while mine did not swarm at all.

Now as to over-production of honey, as Mr. Davenport says, I think there never will be such a thing, for the simple reason that about only one man in 10,000 will make a successful bee-keeper. Why, bless your life, I could sell 20,000 pounds of honey in a week if I had it. I also wish to say that Mr. Davenport's ideas are not progressive in the least. If he had a little world by himself, he could tell his secret in full to the trees, instead of giving the forest part of it and keeping the best part himself.

Julius Happel.

Vanderburg Co., Ind., Sept. 17.

Poor Season for Bees

This has been a poor season for bees around here. My bees have not done very well. It has been too wet for them. I will get about a quarter of a crop.

EDW. MCCOY.

Lima, N. Y., Sept. 10.

A "Pairing" System of Management for Honey

The comb honey man of to-day must answer for himself these 3 questions: How to get clean sections, full sections, and lots of sections. How to do this without swarming. And, lastly, how to accomplish these desirables at the least possible expense.

As to the first, everybody knows that the cleanest sections, both as to wood and honey, are not found over old brood-combs, and that to get full ones, and lots of them, the full strength of the colony must be kept up to the end of the season. But how to do all this without swarming is what everybody doesn't know. Lastly, any plan or system, in order that it may be profitable, must involve no change, at least no great change, of our present fixtures. The expense involved in the Aspinwall and Ferris hives and methods cuts the mass of bee-keepers out entirely. The past summer I worked on a plan which comes nearer satisfying every requirement than any I have tried before, and I give it, though not certain that it will always work well:

Every old colony is paired as early as possible with a nucleus formed in a shallow extracting super. (I use sectional hives). As soon as the young queen is mated, if the season is fully on, a full working force is added to the nucleus, either by shaking into it the bees from the hive with which it is paired, or by shifting the two. The nucleus will now be a comb-building colony, and will be kept at full strength by receiving bees from it at intervals throughout the season. No more supers will be used on the supporting colony, and its sole business will be to reinforce the comb-builders from time to time by having every comb shaken before the other, except that on which its queen is found. After each shaking, enough of its fielders will return to keep it in good working order, and at the close of the season, it would be well prepared for winter. Its old queen can then be removed and the other colony with its young queen placed under it.

Such, in its main features, is the plan on which I worked the past season with very gratifying results. An excessive swarming

American Bee Journal

season might knock the whole thing out. But it will be seen that, granting any known theory, the old colony can't swarm, and, if the other does, all its brood can be given to the old one without affecting the super-work, because it will get all back when hatched.

It will also be plain that the daily hatching force of the comb-building colony, augmented from time to time by a reserve force from its supporting colony, should be able to do good work in the supers. Next season, I will try to make the addition of the reserve force automatic and constant by connecting the hives with one or more escapees. If this can be done, time and labor are almost eliminated, and it looks feasible.

In outlining my plan, I have purposely omitted all such details as will readily suggest themselves.

E. W. DIEDENDORF.

Missouri.

May be Winter Loss from Short Stores

I have had to feed my bees at different times the past summer. I believe there will be quite a loss of bees next winter, as many colonies will go into winter quarters with scarcely any honey. This has been the poorest season I have ever known, and there will not be more than a quarter of a crop of honey in this section. Some bee-keepers are very much discouraged over the outlook, but I think perhaps what I lose this year I will at least partially make up next year. I am putting all the spare time I can in reading good bee-literature.

The American Bee Journal is always a welcome visitor in our home. It has been a source of inspiration to me.

J. W. STINE.
Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, Sept. 17, 1906.

Spanish-Needle—Books on Botany

What is the name of the enclosed flower and its value as a honey-plant?

Please name some good books on botany—some that deal more with the habits and nature of flowers than with the long botanical names.

ARKANSAS.

[The plant in question is Spanish-needle—*Bidens bipinnata*—and is closely related to the common beggar-ticks—a very troublesome weed about corn-cutting time, on account of the achenas or seed-pods sticking to the clothing and pricking the skin. The plant yields a limited quantity of fair nectar.

Some of the best popular books on botany are the following: "Nature's Garden," by Blauchau, \$3.00; "Guide to the Wild Flowers," by Lounsberry, \$1.75; "How to Know the Wild Flowers," by Dana, \$2.00.—C. L. WALTON.]

Cut-Leaved Eriocarpum

I would like to know the name of the plant enclosed, its characteristics, and medicinal properties. It is becoming plentiful here on the plains, growing 12 to 14 inches high, and as wide across the top of the plant, which is full of blossoms on which the bees work.

The honey crop this season in both Prowers and Bent Counties is very poor. Bees were slow in building up in the spring, and the honey-flow was indifferent all summer. The brood-chambers generally are well-filled with winter supplies.

The bees swarmed very little the past season—only 2 or 3 percent. There has not been nearly enough natural increase to make up for last season's loss; so by next spring the number of colonies will be much less than last fall.

JOHN S. SEMMENS.

Prowers, Colo., Sept. 24.

[The plant in question is Cut-leaved Eriocarpum—*Eriocarpum spinulosum*—and ranges from North Dakota to Mexico, along the eastern side of the Rocky Mountains. The plant is related to the goldenrods, and probably is

a honey-plant, although I find no reference to this anywhere. So far as I know, the plant has no common name or medicinal qualities.

—C. L. WALTON.]

A Self-Made Swarm

Has any one had an experience with bees like this? Between 2 strong colonies there was an empty hive, with no comb in it. When the young bees began to fly around, some of them went into the empty hive and they kept increasing in numbers. But they left at night until July 10; then a few of them stayed nights. Then they began to build a little comb and put in some honey. They now had increased to perhaps a quart. This was about the middle of July. Then I let a just-hatched queen run in and she began to lay about the first of August. When I saw they were going to make that their home I gave them a couple of empty combs. Before the young bees began to hatch they had increased to perhaps a quart and a half. They are now quite strong.

My best colony of bees for honey is what some would call hybrids. I have the goldens and the 8-banded Italians, Carniolans, and the Adels. The second best were the Adels.

Bees are doing very poorly. I will get about 40 pounds from one colony, and none from the most of the others.

A. P. RAUGHT.

Round Lake, Ill., Sept. 12.

Blue Aster

I enclose sample of weed or flower, and ask its true and correct name, as it is known here by the farmers as "blue-devil," or "stick-weed." It is comparatively a new weed or flower in this part of the country, and, in my judgment, is one of the best for bees that we have, from the fact that it produces honey in the fall of the year. It is usually in full bloom by Sept. 15 or 20. This year I did not find the bees working on it until Sept. 23, and this is the 26th, and it is in full bloom. It usually remains in bloom until about the middle of October, and if the weather is warm enough for the bees to fly they get plenty of honey to winter on from this flower. It evidently came here in the clover seed bought by the farmers, as it usually follows clover, and seems to be adapted to the same kind of soil as clover. It grows from 1 to 4 or 5 feet, according to the soil. Stock seems to be very fond of it when in bloom, but do not seem to relish it much until it is in bloom. It blooms about 10 or 12 days later than the goldenrod in this part of the country. In looks, growth and general appearance it seems to belong to the Chrysanthemum family.

WEST VIRGINIA.

[The flower is the common blue aster—*Aster azurius*—and along with other members of the aster tribe it furnishes bees with a liberal supply of honey-producing sweetness.—C. L. WALTON.]

Langstroth on the Honey-Bee

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CONVENTION NOTICES.

Illinois and Wisconsin.—The annual meeting of the Northern Illinois and Southern Wisconsin Bee-Keepers' Association will be held at the Court House, in Rockford, Ill., on Tuesday, Oct. 16, 1906. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. and lasts all day. All interested are invited to attend. **B. KENNEDY, Sec.**
Cherry Valley, Ill.

National in Texas.—The National Bee-Keepers' Association will hold its annual convention Nov. 8, 9, and 10, 1906, in San Antonio, Texas. These dates occur at a time when the Texas Fair is in progress, and low rates will be in force, locally, for several hundreds of miles out of San Antonio, and, at the same time, there will be home-seekers' rates available from other parts of the country.

Flint, Mich. **W. Z. HUTCHINSON, Sec.**

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Honey and Beeswax

CHICAGO, Oct. 8.—The receipts of comb honey are quite large and there is also a good demand for it, so that prices are well maintained at 15@16c for No. 1 to fancy; anything short of these grades is not selling freely and ranges from 1c to 3c per pound less; buckwheat, 12½c; dark grades, 8½10c. Extracted, white, 6½@7½c; amber, 6@7c; dark, 5½@6c. Beeswax, 30c. R. A. BURNETT & CO.

TOLEDO, Aug. 20.—The market on honey has not changed much since our last quotation. Bee-keepers seem to be holding their goods expecting large prices. Fancy white comb brings in a retail way 16@17c; No. 1, 15@16c, with no demand for dark. Extracted white clover, in barrels and cans, brings 6½@7c; but very little has been offered as yet. Beeswax, 26@28c. GRIGGS BROS.

INDIANAPOLIS, Sept. 29.—Fancy white comb brings 16@17c ready; No. 1, white, 2c less per pound; the demand is not supplied, but higher prices would decrease the demand. Best grades of extracted honey bring 8@9c. Good average beeswax sells here at \$3 per 100 pounds. WALTER S. POUDEE.

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 20.—Comb honey has been arriving quite freely and the demand is quite brisk at this time. Prices seem to have an upward tendency. The outlook is for still higher prices. We would advise parties who have comb honey to ship, to send it in at once and sell it while the demand is on, for September, October and November are big honey months. We quote: Fancy white comb honey, 16@18c; No. 1, 14@15c; amber, 12@14c. Fancy white extracted, 8@9c; light amber, 7@8c. We are producers of honey and do not handle on commission. WM. A. SELSER.

NEW YORK, Aug. 18.—There is a good demand for new crop comb honey, but arrivals are very small as yet, and will continue so for a week or two to come. We quote fancy white at 15c; No. 1 white at 14c; No. 2 white at 12c; it is too early as yet for dark or buckwheat. Extracted is in good demand at 6½@7c for white, 6c for light amber, and 5@5½c for dark. Southern, common average grade, 50@55c per gallon; better grades at 60@65c. Beeswax firm at 30c. HILDRETH & SNOOKER.

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At Root's Factory Prices

CINCINNATI, July 21.—We are having new comb honey to arrive and it finds ready sale; fancy white at 14½c; and No. 1 at 13½c. Extracted, white clover, in barrels, at 7½c; in cans, 8½c; amber, 5½@5¾c. Beeswax, 30c. C. H. W. WEBER.

DENVER, July 30.—Some small lots of new comb honey coming in now; crop promises to be light. At the present we are selling No. 1 white at 83½ per case of 24 sections; No. 2 at 63. We are paying 24¢ per pound for clean yellow wax delivered here.

THE COLO. HONEY-PRODUCERS' ASSN.

KANSAS CITY, Oct. 3.—The demand for comb and extracted honey is good. We quote No. 1 white comb, 24-section case, \$3; No. 2 amber, \$2.75. Extracted, white, per pound, 6½@7c; amber, 6c. Beeswax, 25c. C. C. CLEMONS & CO.

CINCINNATI, Sept. 18.—The demand for comb honey is good; fancy and No. 1 selling freely at 15@16c; lower grades not wanted at any price. The market on extracted honey is quiet, as quantities remain unsold from last season. We quote amber at 5½@7c, according to quality. Fancy extracted white clover at 7½@8c. We are paying 29@30c for choice yellow beeswax free from dirt. THE FRED W. MUTH CO.

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